(c) The amount utilised in 1998-99 was Rs. 107.76 crore.

(d) There is no action plan drawn up for any other river.

"Pending Proposals of Roads in Garhwal and Kumaon"

†1009. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 187, given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th December, 1998 and state:

(a) the number and details of proposals pending for clearance with the Central Government with regard to roads of 12 districts of Garhwal and Kumaon division,, the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) by when these are likely to be cleared by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) and (b) The present status of 115 proposals of roads as mentioned in the part (c) of the reply of Starred Question 187 in Rajya Sabha on 11.12.1998; is given below:

(i) 9 proposals have been approved.

(ii) 12 proposals have been approved in-principle.

(iii) 4 proposals withdrawn/returned to State Government.

(iv) 11 proposals rejected.

(v) 76 proposals have been rejected for want of information from the State Government within stipulated time period. However, these proposals can be reopened subject to the State Government furnishing complete information alongwith satisfactory reasons for delay in submission of information.

(vi) 1 proposal is pending with State for supply of additional information.

(vii) 2 proposals namely-Queja Kandara motor road in district Chamoli and Kotbangar Badhani Tal motor road in district Tehri are under consideration of the Ministry.

"Ban on picking sand-stones in Rivers"

†1010. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ban has been imposed on the picking of

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

sand stones left by the rivers in Uttar Pradesh, whereas contracts are being awarded for the same work in the foot hill areas;

(b) whether public and private works have been affected by this but it has also become a new source of corruption; if so, whether the Government would look into this problem and make an appropriate arrangement for picking of sand stones of rivers; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, rules and guidelines for lifting of the sand stones, etc. from the river beds located within forest areas (including hilly and plain terrain); prior approval of the Central Government is required.

(b) and (c) Three proposals for collection of sand stones and boulders, etc. from the river beds in the forest area has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh during 1999. The proposal pertaining to District Haldwani has been approved on 18.11.1999 and the proposal of District Pauri was rejected on 8.10.1999 in the interest of wildlife and its habitat. The proposal of District Dehradun was found incomplete and therefore returned to the State Government on 8.7.99.

Publication of a status paper on wild-life sanctuaries

1011. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to publish a status paper on every bird sanctuary, tiger reserves, project tigers and other wildlife, sanctuary in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment & Forests has published a status report on National Parks and Sanctuaries of the country. Detailed Directories of National Parks and Sanctuaries for Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have also been published.

Population of Senior Citizens

1012. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of aged persons beyond 60 this year and that expected till the next 10 years; and